

Delays continue on US 60 at Queen Creek Tunnel for rock removal and continued blasting

Motorists should plan on 20-minute delays on US 60 east of Superior at the Queen Creek Tunnel and Oak Flat

The Arizona Department of Transportation will be starting another improvement project on US 60 in the Superior area on Monday Sept. 28. The project will involve removal of loose rock from the embankments around the entrances to the Queen Creek tunnel. Work hours for the Queen Creek tunnel rock removal will be **Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Motorists should plan for intermittent 20-minute delays during this time as crews remove loose rock from the embankment and clear the road.

Two other construction projects are currently going on in the Superior area, including the passing lane project at Oak Flat and the Silver King/Superior Streets widening project.

There are currently weekly delays for blasting for the passing lane project, but no major delays for Silver King/Superior Streets project.

Some of the rock removal delays will be done during the scheduled closures for the Oak Flat passing lane blasting. Blasting schedules for the Oak Flat Passing Lane project ***[the two-mile-long climbing lane from Devil's Canyon to Oak Flat - mileposts 231-233]*** may be found at azdot.gov/us60oakflat and including:

The construction of the two-mile-long climbing lane from Devil's Canyon to Oak Flat (mileposts 231-233) will require four separate full closures of US 60 for up to 90 minutes:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**
- **Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**
- **Thursday, Oct. 8, at 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and again from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Traffic on eastbound US 60 will be stopped east of Superior (milepost 227) and westbound US 60 will be stopped at the Top of the World, west of Miami (milepost 235) until the blasting work is completed and the roadway is reopened after all debris is cleared. Law enforcement officers will be stationed at each closure to assist with traffic control.

Immediately prior to each blast, crews need to set the concrete barrier for that blast and additional delays are possible.

Motorists seeking an alternate route can consider state routes 77 and 177, which is approximately 68 miles long. Motorists headed to the White Mountains region, including Show Low and Springerville, can also take State Route 87 through Payson and travel east on State Route 260 as an alternative.

ADOT is working to minimize the traffic impacts as much as possible, including scheduling some nighttime work. The project is scheduled to be completed in three weeks.

There will be narrow traffic lanes, wide-load restrictions and a reduced speed limit through the work zone. Flaggers and pilot cars will be used at different times throughout the project.

Drivers are asked to use caution, watch for construction equipment and personnel, and allow extra time for your commute.

For more information on this project call Rod Wigman at 928-308-8233 or rwigman@azdot.gov.